

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

June 2, 1997

LB 798

charges more, significantly more than other hospitals. They use more out-patient services and they bill for more expensive treatments. It is not a cost saving. The market system does not end up ultimately saving money, and the taxpayer pays most of the bill through Medicaid and Medicare. It ends up costing more money, not saving money. And who in the end profits from that? It will be those at the top of the line as we change the system. And that's the for-profit side. But when I keep talking about for-profit, that sort of competition then enters in the market into our nonprofit side, and they end up having to do some of the same things, turning their back on the indigent, not being able to provide the full set of care that they normally would, for even those that they take in that don't have the insurance, don't have the ability to pay. They locate their clinics and their facilities at places where the wealthiest among us live, not where the poorest among us live. This is head us down a road that we don't want to ultimately see the logical conclusion of which, but it's headed there and we should all know it. And we will eventually have to intervene again and redirect this. But again, this is a start, this isn't the end, and I'm laying out a future that I think is pretty bleak. You won't see it immediately, perhaps, but you will see it in time. It's based on my experience, it's based on experience that Senator Lynch has been talking about. We fought these battles, we've been there for them, we've seen how it works. The system has changed, the market has changed, but a lot of things remain, and that's what we're warning you about, that this change, based on the.... You combine a no CON with this profit motive in the marketplace and a change in that dynamic, I think you're headed for real trouble. And, again, I urge you to vote against the advancement of the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Seeing no further lights, Senator Crosby, do you wish to close?

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Madam President. I just ask for everyone to vote to advance the bill. And I give my time to Senator McKenzie.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator McKenzie.

SENATOR MCKENZIE: Thank you, Madam President and members.